



**WFO Public Weather Forecast Products**

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1. Introduction. This supplement provides additional instructions for alphanumeric public products issued by National Weather Service (NWS) Central Region Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) as well as instructions for regional options permitted in NWSI 10-503 where such options are exercised. An ever-increasing majority of alphanumeric public products are generated directly from the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) using formatting software. With respect to product format, compliance with the defining instruction, NWSI 10-503, is predicated on and subsequent to the evolving maturity of the NDFD and its associated formatting software.

Forecast grids are created to match the meteorology of the forecast scenario. Geopolitical boundaries typically define a zone in the Zone Forecast Product (ZFP). The ZFP is an areal average of the individual forecast grids within that zone. As a result, it is acceptable if a grid point forecast, within a defined zone (ZFP), and the ZFP are not identical.

2. Zone Forecast Product (product category ZFP).

2.1 Mission Connection. Requests to change a zone boundary must be submitted to the Weather Program Leader, Services Division, Central Region Headquarters, W/CR1x1.

2.2 Issuance Time. The ZFP is an event-driven product derived directly from the WFO’s NDFD grids (i.e., local grids). Changes to the WFO local grids are on-going as forecasters portray the latest forecast thought. As a result, forecast products, including the ZFP, are dynamic and are consider to be “always current”.

2.3 Combining Periods. The first period of the forecast must stand alone. All other forecast periods may be combined when weather elements (including winds and restrictions to visibility) are similar. Formatting element similarity is accomplished locally (i.e., individual WFO).

2.4. Precipitation and Probability of Precipitation (POP) Forecasts. POP forecast grids are designed to match the meteorology of the forecast scenario and will not be compromised to meet geopolitical boundaries. As a result, POP presentations in a zone within the ZFP may, on occasion, vary from Directive definitions.

2.5. Extreme Temperature Conditions. Wind Chill and Heat Index values will be included in the forecast and/or headlines in accordance with the locally established criteria after coordination with Central Region Services Division (CRSD). Criteria for each WFO will be inventoried by CRSD

2.6 Wind. In areas with extreme topographic diversity, including wind velocity forecasts with speeds less than 15 mph is optional.

### 3. State Forecast Products

3.1 Format. There are two available formats for the optional narrative State Forecast Product (SFP). The formats are (1) a product with only one geographic forecast segment, and (2) a product containing two or more geographic forecast segments.

3.2 Combining Periods. The first period of the SFP must stand alone. All other forecast periods may be combined when weather elements are similar.

### 4. Tabular State Forecast Product

4.1 Issuance Criteria. The Tabular State Forecast (SFT) is issued twice daily. Which WFO prepares the SFT for each state in Central Region will be determined by a consensus among those WFOs serving that state.